

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
August 12, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Commissioner Randall Budge; Virgil Moore, Deputy Director; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director; Tom Hemker, Wildlife Program Coordinator; Emily Anderson, Governor's Office; Dustin Miller, OSC; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; and Ted Eisele, Idaho Waterfowl Association.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler with Commissioners Barowsky, Wright, Trevey, Budge, and Power participating.

RULES

2008 Idaho Waterfowl Season Recommendations
2008 Idaho Sage-grouse Season Recommendations

Tom Hemker, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the Department recommendations to the Commission (Appendix 41, exhibit 79).

Mr. Hemker noted that there are two major changes this year for waterfowl. The canvasback season will be closed and the scaup will be reduced to 86 days which is 3 weeks shorter than the rest of the ducks.

2008 Idaho Waterfowl Season Recommendations
Geese (No Change)

- 107 days
- North, East, Ft. Hall 10/4 to 1/16
- Southwest 10/11 to 1/23
- Bag 4

Ducks (Some Changes)

- 107 days
- North, East, Ft. Hall 10/4 to 1/16
- Southwest 10/11 to 1/23
- Bag 7 ducks, 7 mallards, 2 hens
- Canvasback closed
- Scaup restriction
 - Shorter season beginning 10/25 (NE) and 11/1 (SW)

Youth Waterfowl Days (no change)
9/27-28

08-72 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2008 WATERFOWL SEASON. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hemker noted that to date the Department has no documented West Nile Virus mortality in sage-grouse. The Department is monitoring carefully especially in the Owyhee County. He noted that range conditions are in pretty good shape and we should have an average or above average production. Curlew season will be reopened. The Department is following the guidelines in the 2006 Plan and all of the local working groups were in consensus on these recommendations.

2008 Idaho Sage-Grouse Season Recommendations

Season Opens September 20, 2008

Southwestern Owyhee County, 23- day season, two-bird limit

Northwestern Owyhee County, seven-day season, two-bird limit

Eastern Owyhee County, closed

Magic Valley, seven-day season, one-bird limit

Parts of Power, Oneida and Cassia counties, seven-day season, one-bird limit

Most of the Upper Snake Region as well as Lemhi and part of Custer counties, 23-day season, two-bird limit

Big Desert area West of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 20, seven-day season, one-bird limit

Southeastern part of the state, east of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 26, closed

08-73 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2008 SAGE- GROUSE SEASONS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

**Rules: Disability License Self Certification to Hold and Use Legal Equipment;
Define Physician for Purposes of Disability Certification**

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, stated that at the July Commission meeting staff made a proposal to help clarify the licensing rules for the Department disability license. There were questions and requests for staff to gather additional information. The motion was tabled by the Commission. Originally the Department had until November to reconsider and make the time line for proposed rules to be presented in the legislative review docket. After checking the dates staff discovered the cutoff date was August 20th and is the reason staff is presenting today so that it can be included in Legislative review docket and hopefully implemented in 2009. Ms. Kiefer referenced a proposal emailed to Commissioners (Appendix 41, Exhibit 80) and presented the staff proposals.

STAFF PROPOSALS:

- Adopt definition of physician.
- Utilize letter from Veterans Affairs office showing 40% or greater veterans service-connected disability for permanent entry into licensing system for disability license, so no future documentation required for disability license application.
- Clarify that date of Veterans Affairs office letter for service-connected disability can be dated up to time of disability license application.
- Delete requirement for disability license applicant to demonstrate ability to hold or hold and fire legal hunting and fishing equipment.
- Create self-certification of ability to hold and fire legal hunting equipment for applicants for Disabled Motor Vehicle Hunting Permits and applicants for Disabled Archery Permits.

08-74 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to adopt as a proposed rule, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS ON DISABILITY LICENSES AS PRESENTED. The proposed rule will not be in effect until approved as a permanent rule by the 2009 legislature. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Director Groen gave a short briefing on the Legislative Ad Hoc funding meeting held August 11th in Boise. Director Groen stated that there were five key legislators represented at the meeting. There was good discussion regarding funding, a briefing from Clive Strong on wolf litigation; 20 % Fee Increase for the Department and enhancements; OHV's, depredation accounts, efficiencies for the Department and Legislative proposals.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary